

Make a Difference **With Us**

0844 800 1941

www.fostercareuk.co.uk

enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk

referrals@fostercareuk.co.uk



FosterCare^{UK}
Make a Difference

Transforming the lives of children and young people - forever

Abandoned, abused, or simply born to parents who are unable to care and look after them appropriately, each child has reached the same crisis point in their young lives: they face growing up away from the love and support of a family.

That's where you come in!

As a foster carer working for us, you will be at the centre of a dedicated team of professionals committed to transforming the lives of society's most vulnerable children and young people.

We are recruiting in your area - join us

This booklet explains how people like you can turn children and young peoples' lives around by offering them a safe, secure home and loving family environment.

Interested in fostering?

Apply online **w: fostercareuk.co.uk**

By email **e: fostering@fostercareuk.co.uk**

Or telephone: **t: 0844 800 1941**



It isn't just about finding a home; it's about finding the right home, where a child can grow up safely and develop their full potential.

Make a Difference Foster with Us

Fostering may be the greatest challenge you ever undertake. It could also be the most rewarding.

There is no 'typical' or 'ideal' foster carer. We need people from all walks of life, all cultures and religions so that we can place children and young people, where possible, with foster parents that reflect and understand their background. Families, couples, single people and people from the LGBT community are all eligible to be foster carers.

What we ask is that you have a spare bedroom, and most importantly, a genuine desire to understand and support the children and young people we place in your care. Sometimes it can take time to build a relationship with a foster child, particularly if they feel let down by the other adults in their life. There will be times when they are angry, upset, withdrawn or simply misbehave; and times when they need your affection and encouragement to cope with painful memories. You'll need to be patient and very resilient.

This has been an excellent placement. Both foster parents have gone beyond what would have been expected. They have done an exceptional job in difficult circumstances.

*Social worker,
Buckinghamshire*



We support you every step of the way

The most rewarding jobs are often those that place the greatest demands on your energy and time.

We know that this can sometimes be the case with fostering, and as a leading fostering services provider we're committed to helping you every step of the way.

We provide:

- Skills to Foster training
- Good pay and benefits
- 24/7 support
- Continuous development
- Ambassador foster carers
- 3 weeks paid respite care

Being a local agency, we can offer support whenever you need it. Your Supervising Social Worker will be in touch every week, to make sure that you're supported and to give you the opportunity to address and discuss any issues as they arise. They will also make regular visits every few weeks to spend some quality time with you and your children. In between times, our network of Ambassador Foster Carers are happy to provide advice and support when you need it and we're always just a phone call away, 24 hours a day. If there are any difficulties, you won't be left to cope alone.

Unique children, unique needs

We will arrange support to meet every child's unique needs. Where necessary we can also draw upon accredited and experienced professionals to help, such as child therapists, educational psychologists, health specialists or family counsellors. We run regular forums where foster carers can come together and share their experiences and advice, and we offer three weeks' paid respite care to give you a break whenever you need it.



Make a Difference Foster with Us

Becoming a foster carer with us

Your journey to become a foster carer starts with an informal discussion, where one of our Social Workers will visit you at home to answer questions you have and to tell you more about the process of fostering and our expectations. If you decide to go ahead, they will help you to complete the forms needed to proceed. These include an enhanced DBS check, medical and other statutory checks, including interviews with birth children and ex-partners as applicable.

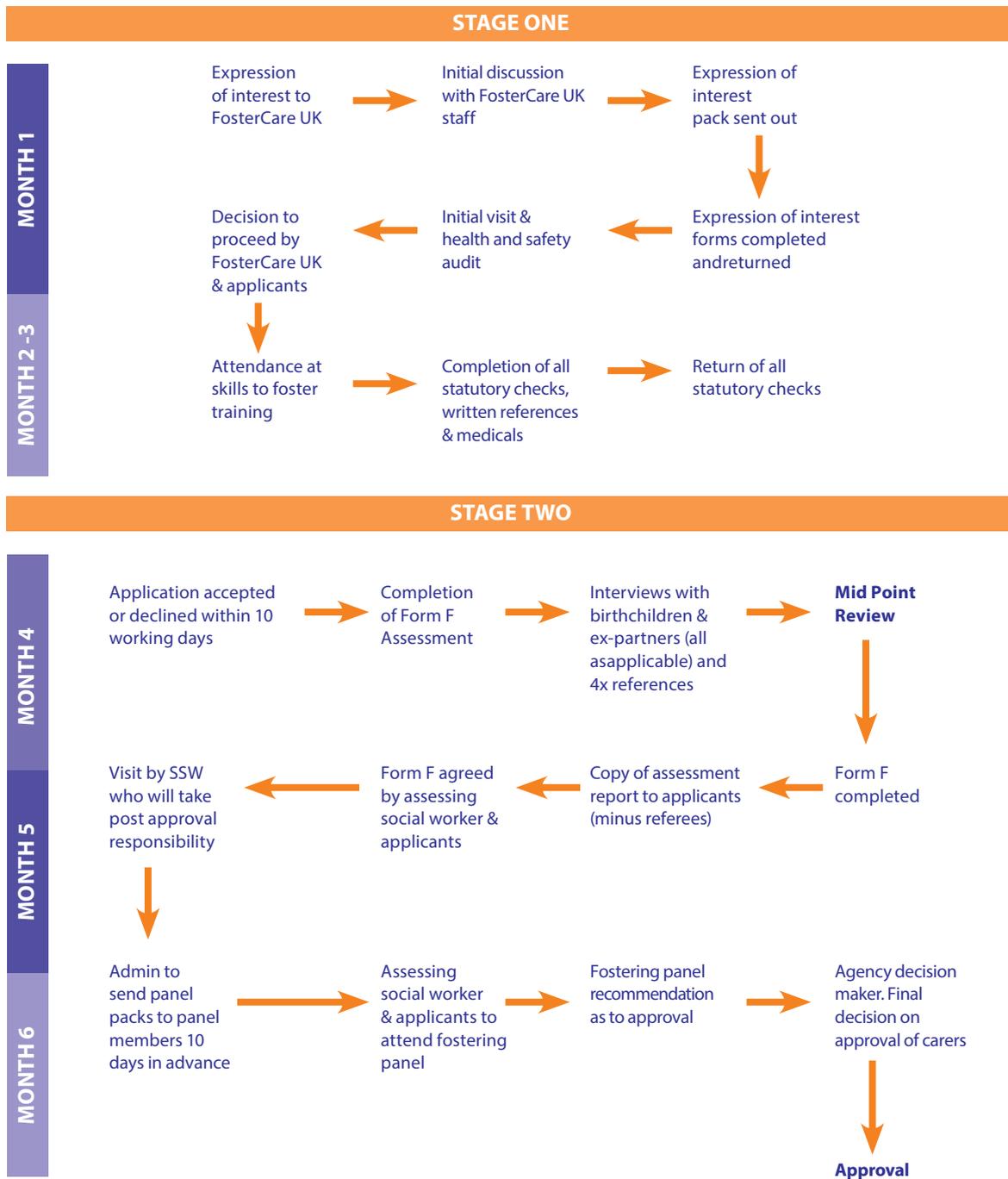
There are several rigorous stages we go through to ensure that you, and any child or young person, will be safe and well supported when you start fostering with us.

During this period you will begin the core and specialist training that will help you prepare to look after the children we place with you.

Once you have completed the course, we will discuss whether you are happy to proceed, and whether you would prefer to offer long-term, short-term or respite care. The final stage is your application presented to our fostering panel and a decision made about your suitability to foster with us.



Key steps in the approval process



Choosing the right fostering service is an important decision. We're happy to answer any questions you may have – contact us on **0844 800 1941** to talk to the FosterCare UK team direct.

What Makes us Different

What sets us apart is quite simple - **our foster carers!**

We invest heavily in recruiting, assessing, training and supporting the very best people. Whether they be single, a couple or a family, we apply a rigorous assessment process to ensure our carers are prepared for fostering, and are able to provide the kind of home, nurturing and loving warmth that children and young people need to thrive.

Whether the carers working for us are new to fostering or highly experienced, they are at the centre of a dedicated team of professionals committed to transforming the lives of society's most vulnerable children and young people.

When the time is right, experienced carers are elevated to 'Ambassador Foster Carer' and play a pivotal role in recruiting, mentoring and nurturing new foster carers through the challenges they inevitably face. Ambassador Foster Carers are also involved in our Skills to Foster training and we ask them to be part of an internal assessment process designed to continually improve our service.

Our team of social workers, responsible individuals, Ambassador Foster Carers and experienced team provide 24/7 support to our foster carers and the children in our care. This level of support means that we make a difference to the lives of our foster carers by allowing them to foster in confidence.

We know our carers. We know their strengths and their weaknesses. And as a result, we know what type of placement is right for them. It is this sort of commitment to matching that helps us achieve the best possible outcome for children whether it be for a day, week, month or many years.

Therapeutic Fostering

We currently offer a number of Therapeutic Fostering packages under a range of frameworks. We have a clinical team of experts in place to make difference. Packages include individual therapeutic treatment plans, clinical support to foster carers and a Team Around the Child (TAC) approach.

Basically, we are good at getting the important things right. We;

- Are well organised and have efficient systems and procedures
- Recruit and train only the best foster carers
- Provide carers with excellent training and support
- Recruit and train experienced, qualified, competent and experienced staff
- Create bespoke services to meet the needs of children and young people
- Have a collective attitude to deliver success
- Communicate regularly and have a no-blame culture
- Work hard to provide the highest quality service to the children and young people in our care
- Work hard to provide the best service to our Local Authority partners which means they come to us first
- Are well-established with a reputation for innovative and flexible providing quality care for children and outstanding support to our foster carers

Our careful approach to matching children with foster carers and the volume of referrals that we receive supports our efforts to always achieve a good match between carers and children that in practice promotes our carers success and continued positive outcomes.

Frequently Asked Questions

A full FAQs information booklet is also available to read and download on our website at www.fostercareuk.co.uk.

What is FosterCare UK

FosterCare UK is a highly successful, innovative and forward thinking independent fostering service. We specialise in the care of children with a wide range of needs. We offer a local service, where we can work in real partnership with foster carers, children and Local Authorities to harmonize the process for everyone involved.

Who can foster for FosterCare UK?

FosterCare UK is looking for families, couples and single people from diverse backgrounds and cultures, with a variety of life experiences. We want carers who are physically healthy, emotionally mature and with a capacity to understand the young person's position.

We need people who are in stable relationships or settled as a single person, with at least one spare bedroom and a strong support network.

FosterCare UK welcomes applications from:

- Couples, single people or friends and family members who share a home
- People from all religious denominations and backgrounds and those with no religious faith
- People from all ethnic backgrounds and cultures
- People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered as well as heterosexual
- People from varied financial, social, educational and employment backgrounds

Who needs foster care?

Children and young people aged 0-18 years (and sometimes older) may need foster care at certain times in their lives; in particular young people aged 11 and over and brothers and sisters who need to be kept together. There is also a need for young people with physical disabilities, those seeking asylum in this country or a young person who is a parent or about to become a parent.



Why do children and young people need fostering?

There are many different reasons why children and young people need foster care:

- Family crisis, i.e. a parent going into hospital
- Children who have been neglected or physically, emotionally or sexually abused and removed from their parents' care by the Courts
- Relationship difficulties between children and parents
- Children who are remanded to the care of the Local Authority for criminal reasons
- Young parents under 18 years and their babies
- Young people unaccompanied in this country seeking asylum
- Children moving from a residential home or secure accommodation into a family environment



Are there different types of fostering?

Yes, the most common types are:

- **Short term** – from an overnight stay, up to one year
- **Long term/permanence** – usually for children who cannot be returned to live with their own families or require a permanent home
- **Bridging to independence** – for young people aged 15 years and over who are helped by foster carers to move on to independent living
- **Specialist needs** – for children and young people with high needs in relation to a physical or mental disability, in need of a therapeutic placement or undergoing residential migration
- **Emergency** – some foster carers work on a duty rota to provide emergency cover for unplanned placements during the evenings, weekends and holidays
- **Parent and child** – foster carers provide guidance and support to parent(s) before and after the birth of their baby
- **Respite** – which involves caring for a child, a young person or a family group on a part time basis from a few hours a week to a whole weekend, or while their family take a holiday or break
- **Remand** – foster carers look after young people who are remanded by the Courts into public care. These placements are usually short term and require the carer to work closely with the youth justice and offending teams
- **Residential Transition** – where young people are moved into foster care from a residential placement in a planned way
- **Therapeutic Fostering** – When a young person is placed with therapeutically trained foster carers who are supported under and working within our therapeutic framework.

How much will I get paid?

There is an allowance paid to foster carers for each child placed. Carers are classed as self employed. This fee is taxable but FosterCare UK has access to accountants and financial advisors able to give guidance to foster carers.

These allowances are intended to cover all aspects of the child's care including clothing, pocket money, savings, birthdays and Christmas gifts. Payments are made monthly in arrears and carers are always paid on time.

We recognise that this is a highly demanding task, and carer allowances wholly reflect this skilled status. Our structure is age related, and per child per week: £352.00 (0-4 years), £382.00 (5-10 years) and £412.00 (11 years+). For other specialist types of placements (e.g. remand, parent and child, residential transition or therapeutic) the weekly payment to foster carers is higher, reflecting the unique and diverse care needs of these young people.

What support will I receive?

At FosterCare UK we have set new standards in the way we support our foster carers. As a foster carer you are a key member of the larger professional team at FosterCare UK. Because of the challenges you will face, FosterCare UK will provide extensive pre- and post-placement, coupled with ongoing, support as your professional career develops.

Our carers enjoy the benefits of regular (at least weekly) phone calls and at least monthly structured supervision sessions. In addition, they are required to attend support group meetings where they can meet with other carers, staff and managers.

Our support package is as follows:

- Each carer has an individual Supervising Social Worker assigned to them
- Each Supervising Social Worker has no more than 10 families to support, with plenty of time to offer you all the help and advice you need
- You will receive activity and holiday allowances for you, your family and foster children
- You will have 21 nights paid respite
- You can come along to social events, such as dinner dances, BBQs and family days out
- You'll get access to a 24 hour Out of Hours support service managed by an experienced, qualified, and child focused team

Do I get any time off?

At FosterCare UK we recognise the importance of looking after yourself: All our foster carers are entitled to respite of at least 21 nights per year. However, we also recognise the importance of treating foster children as you would your own family, including them on holidays, outings and activities. With this in mind, if you do not take this allowance FosterCare UK will make a one off payment at the end of the financial year equivalent to your three weeks' entitlement.

What training will I receive?

Before you can foster a child you must attend a programme of training called the Skills to Foster Course. If you have applied with a partner, you will both be required to attend this course. This programme is the equivalent of two full days. These training sessions usually occur before the formal assessment as a foster carer.

Once you are approved as a foster carer there is a varied, regular programme of short courses that have been developed in line with the DfE training and development standards. There is an expectation that you will participate in the training programme.

A close-up photograph of a person's open palm, facing upwards. The word "HELP" is written in large, bold, black capital letters across the palm. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a child's clothing in shades of blue and white.

HELP

Interested in fostering with us?

Whether you are new to fostering or already foster and want to transfer, we will guide you through every step of the process.

Find out more by calling us and talking to our friendly FosterCare UK team or apply online or by email:

e: fostering@fostercareuk.co.uk

w: fostercareuk.co.uk

t: 0844 800 1941

Join us as a foster carer and help transform the lives of children and young people - forever!



Contact

London Centre
FosterCare UK Ltd
Airport House Business
Centre, Airport House
Purley Way
Croydon CR0 0XZ
T: 020 8226 6654

Kent Centre
FosterCare UK Ltd
Newbury House
Court Lodge Farm
Hinxhill, Ashford
Kent TN25 5NR
T: 01233 210668

Herts Centre
FosterCare UK Ltd
Business & Design
Technology Centre
Bessemer Drive
Stevenage
Herts SG1 2DX
T: 01438 771 721

Central Services
FosterCare UK Ltd
Innovation House
Discovery Park
Ramsgate Road
Sandwich
Kent CT13 9FF
T: 0844 800 1941

 fostering@fostercareuk.co.uk
enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk
referrals@fostercareuk.co.uk

 fostercareuk.co.uk

 @FosterCare_UK

 WeAreFosterCareUK



Reg. in England and Wales No: 6139705